Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01230 081843Z ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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O 081823Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8116

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL LUSAKA 1230

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH US UK TX

SUBJ: RHODESIA: MEETING WITH PATRIOTIC FRONT

REF: A) LUSAKA 1228, B) LUSAKA 1229, C) HARROP-EDMONDSON-CLINGERMAN TELCON APRIL 8

- 1. FOREIGN MINISTER MWALE AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR MARK CHONA CALLED ME WITHIN FIVE MINUTES OF EACH OTHER. I TOLD BOTH MEN THAT WE DID NOT FAVOR ONE SITE OVER ANOTHER FOR THE MALTA II MEETING, BUT WE DID NEED A DECISION.
- 2. MWALE AGAIN SAID WITH SOME ASPERITY HIS UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT MEETING WAS TO BE IN DAR. HE ADDED HE COULD THINK OF NO CONFIDENTIAL

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VIABLE REASONS TO CHANGE THIS DECISION MADE IN LAGOS. HE PROMISED HE WOULD TALK TO THE PRESIDENT AND GET BACK TO ME WITH A DECISION DURING THE COURSE OF TOMORROW, APRIL 9.

3. CHONA'S REPLY WAS SOMEWHAT MORE NUANCED, BUT HE DID STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT THE MEETING WOULD BE IN TANZANIA. HE SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND WHY NKOMO WANTED THE MEETING IN LUSAKA. AFTER

ALL, NKOMO WAS ALWAYS GOING OUT OF HIS WAY TO MEET MUGABE'S PREFERENCES AS TO MEETING SITES. NKOMO'S FOLLWERS WERE PRESSING HIM ON WHY HE CONTINUED TO LET MUGABE PORTRAY TO THE WORLD THAT NKOMO HAD TO COME TO HIM RATHER THAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND. HOWEVER, THESE WERE PETTINESSES WHICH SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO JEOPARDIZE A MEETING AS IMPORTANT AS MALTA II. HE SAID HE WOULD SORT THE WHOLE QUESTION OUT WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND JOSHUA NKOMO AND GET BACK TO ME TOMORROW. CHONA WENT ON TO SAY THAT I COULD AT THIS POINT CONFIRM TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE IN TANZANIA. HE DIDN'T CARE IF IT WERE TO TAKE PLACE IN DAR, ARUSHA OR ANY OTHER PLACE IN TANZANIA, BUT IT CERTAINLY WOULD NOT BE IN LUSAKA.

4. COMMENT: ONE CAN NEVER BE SURE THAT PROMISES WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO ACTION. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE FORCE WITH WHICH BOTH MWALE AND CHONA ADDRESSED THE ISSUE, JOSHUA NKOMO WILL HAVE TO COME UP WITH MOST CONVINCING REASONS TO GET THEM TO AGREE TO SUPPORT LUSAKA AS A SITE FOR MALTA II. CLINGERMAN

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